



# THOMAS CORIATE Traueller for the English VVits: Greeting.

From the Court of the Great MOGVL, Resident at the Towns of Asmere, in Easterne India.



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Loe heere the wooden Image of our wits; Borne, in first trauaile, on the backs of Nits; But now on Elephants,&c: O, what will heride, when his yeares expire? The world must ride him; or heall will tire.



# To the Reader.

Hree years (poore Countrimen that have not travaild) And some odde daies, in Odde-combs grace & yours, I have enricht my feete (though something gravaild) VVith measuring millicents of Townes & Towres. And yet I sweare, my head is nothing full But rather empty of fuch things as fit One that makes nothing of the Great Mogul, But farre beyond, or wide, as farre as it Is from my Od-combe. Meane to trauaile still, Till I have equald in some seaven yeares more The wife Vlysles; for of him, my will VVants nought in wit, but seauen yeares and some score Of foolish dayes; of which, I hope to spend Ten millions more: For all my life shall be Endeard to that most lou'd; most fortunate end, And to bring honor, to my Land and Ye. But do not long for me too foone; or doubt, As doth my mother; who doth with I heare, To have me there, though in a shitten clout; Though I not tred out my Vlyssian yeares.



A 3

For

## To the Reader.

For who can purchase wisedome? Ten yeares? No. Before I get it, I will go, and go.

His Parallel with Erasmus.

Erasmus did in praise of folly write; And Coryate doth, in his selfe-praise endite.





### TO THE RIGHT Honourable, Sir Ed-

ward Phillips, Knight, and
Maister of the Rolles, at his
house in Chancery-Lane,
or Vyanstead.

#### From the Court of the

most mighty Monarch, the Great Mogul, resident in the Towne of Asmere, in the Easterne India, Anno 1615.



B

Right



Right Honourable,



Am perswaded, that if euer any accident worthy of admiration euer happened vnto your honor in al your

life time, it will be the receiuing of this present Letter, from me out of the Easterne India: yet perhaps it will seeme vnto you so wondrous, that I beleeue you will doubt whether this bee the true hand writing of your once Odcombiam Neighbor, Thomas Coryate. But your Honour may soone very infallibly and apparantly perceiue it to be true; partly by the forme of thestyle, which is inst

iust answerable to that manner of speech that you have heard and obferued in me, sometimes in my Linsie-woolsie Orations; and somtimes in my extrauagant discourses: and partly by the testimony of the bearer heereof, M. Peter Rogers, Minister at the time of his being in India, to the English Merchants resident at the Court of the most puissant Monarch the great Mogul, at a town called Asmere; whose comfortable and sweet company I enioyed at the same Court, about the space of foure Moneths.

Now, though there hath itched a very burning desire in mee, within these sew yeares, to survey and contemplate some of the chiefest parts of this goodly Fabricke of the VVorld, besides mine owne native Country: yet never did I thinke it would have broken out to such an ambitious vent, as to travell all on B 2 foote

foote from Ierusalem, so farre as the place where I wrote this Letter.

Howbeit fince Fortune, or rather (to speake more properly, in vsing a Christian word) the prouidence of the Almighty, (for Fatuus est, S. Augustinesaith, qui fato credit) hath so ordained, that I should securely pase so far into the Orientall world, with al humilitie vpon the bended knees of my hart, I thank my Creator & merciful redeemer, Iesus Christ; (whose Sacrofanct Sepulcher I have visited & kissed, terque quaterque in Ierusalem) & do very much congratulate mine ownehappines, that he hath hitherto endued mee with health, (for in all my trauels fince I came out of England, I have enjoyed as found a constitution of body, & firme health, as ever I did fince I first drew this vitall ayre) libertie, strength of limbs, agilitie of foot-manship,&c.

Neither do I doubt, but that your Honour it selse will likewise con-

gratulate the felicitie of our Sommersetsbire, that in breeding me, hath produced fuch a traueller, as dooth for the diversitie of the Countries he hath seene, and the multiplicitie of his observations, farre (I beleeve) out-strippe anie other whatsoever, that hath beene bred therein fince the bleffed Incarnation of our Sauior. Yea, I hope my generall countrie of England, shall one day say, that Odde-combe, for one part of the word, may truelie be so called: (for Odde-combe confisteth of two words, odde, & combe, which latter word in the olde Saxon tongue fignifieth besides the vertical point of a cocks head, the fide of a Hill, because the east side of the hill wheron Od-combe standeth, is very conspicuous, and seene afar off in the Country Eastward) for breeding an odde man, one that hath not his peere in the whole kingdome to match him.

B 3 Three

Three yeares and some few odde dayes I have spent already, in this fecond peregrination, and I hope with as much profite (vnpartially will I speake it of my selfe, without any ouer-weening opinion, to which most men are subject) both for learning foure Languages more, then I had when I left my Country: viz. Italian, Arabian, Turkish and Persian; and exact viewing of divers of the most remarkeable matters of the Vniverse; together with the accurate description thereof, as most of my Countri-men that are now abroad. Yet fuch is my infatiable greedinesse of seeing strange countries: which exercise is indeede the very Queene of all the pleasures in the world, that I have determined (if God shall say Amen) to spend full seauen yeares more, to the ende to make my voyage answerable for the time to the trauels of Vlysses; & then

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then with vnfpeakable ioy to reuifite my Country; which I will ever entitle (notwith-standing all the goodly Regions that I have seene in my two perambulations) with the stile of the true Canaan of the world, that flowes with Milke and Hony. Onely wish me good successe, I befeech your Honour, as I will from my heart, to you and all your familie; hoping to falute you after the finall catastrophe of my exoticke wanderings; when you shall bee in the great climacterical year of your age; you being about fifty three, if my coniecture doth not faile mee, when I tooke my leaue of you: a thing verie likely by the mercifull goodnesse of God. For your Father, that was my god-father, who imposed vpon me the name of Thomas, liued more then eightie yeares.

Honourable Sir, take it not, I befeech you, for a discourtesie, in that I write nothing in this Letter of my past trauels. I am certaine, that a Letter which I have written to M. VV bitaker, your learned and elegant Secretary, wherein I have compendiouslie discoursed of some of my observations in Afia, will quicklie come to your hands, at least if hee remaineth still in your seruice: therfore it would be superfluous to haue repeated the same things. Dutie ioyned with the recordation of the manifold benefits, and fingular fauours I have received from you, hath injoyned mee to fend this Letter to your Honour, from this glorious Court of the Mogul; wherein feeing I relate not the fingularities I have seene in those Orientall Regions, I will defist to be farther tedious; humbly recommending your Honour, and vertuous Lady, your well-beloued Sonne and Heireapparant, Sir Robert, (to whom I haue

have written a few times also) & his sweet Lady; M. Martin also, M. Christopher Brooke, whom I thanke still for his no lesse elegant then serious verses: M. Equinoctiall Pasticrust of the middle Temple, M. VV illiam Hackwell, and the rest of the worthy gentlemen frequenting your Honourable table, that sauour vertue, and the sacred Muses, to the most Heauenly Clientele of the eternall Iehouah.

Your Honors most obsequious Beadsman, Thomas Coryate.

From the Court of the great Mogul, resident in the Towne of Asmere in the Easterne India, on Michaelmas day, Anno 1615.

I befeech your Honour, to speake courteously to this kind Minister M. Rogers for my sake: for he euer shewed himselse very louing vnto me.



#### Most deare and beloued Friend, Maister L. W.

animæ dimidium meæ.

From the Court of the most Mighty Monarch, called the Great Mogul, resident in the Towne of Asmere, in the Orientall India. Anno 1615.



Ordiall falutations in the Author of Saluation, Iesus Christ: where I writ vnto you last, I remember wel; euen

from Zobah, as the Prophet Samuel calleth it (2 Booke 8.chap.ver. 3) that is, Aleppo, the principall Emporium of all Syria, or rather of the Orient world; but when, in trueth I have forgotten, for I keepe not coppies

of my Letters, as I see most of my Countrey-men doe, in whatfoeuer place of the worlde I finde them. Howbeit, if my coniecture doe not much faile me, I may affirme that it was about xv. moneths fince, about a month after I returned vnto Aleppa from Ierusalem, afterwhich time, I remained there three months longer, and then departed therehence in a Carauan into Persia, palling the noble river Euphrates (the cheefest Gen. 2. 10. of all that irrigated Paradife, wherehence, as from their original the three other rivers were derived) about foure dayes iourney beyond Aleppo: on the farther fide of which, I entered Mesapotamia, alias Chaldea, for the Euphrates in that place disterminateth Syria & Mesopotamia. Therehence I had two dayes iourney to Vrof the Chaldeans, where Abraham was Gen. 1: 28. born, a very delicate and pleasant Cittie. There I remained four edayes, but I could C 2

I could see no part of the ruines of the house, wher that faithful servant of God was borne, though I much defired it. From thence, I had foure dayes iourney to the River Tigris, which I passed also; but in the same place where I croffed it, I found it so shallow, that it reached no higher then the calfe of my legge: for I waded ouer it afoot. Now I wel perceiue by mine occular experience, that Chaldea is named Mesopotamia, for that it is inclosed with the foresaid rivers. Traiecto Tigride, Ientred Armenia the greater: Afterthat, Media the lower, & resided six dayes in the Metropolis therof, heretofore called Echatana, the sommer seate of Cyrus his Court, a City eftsoone mentioned in the Scripture, now called Tauris, more wofull ruines of a City (fauing that of Troy & Cyzicum in Natolia) neuer did mine eies beholde: when I feriously contemplated those ipiana, the doleful testimonies of the TurTurkish devastations, I called to minde Ouids verse.

Ludit in humanis divina potentia rebus.

And that of Hefiod,

Tade v'esplepa veglega Bises leus un speuilus. From that, I had two daies iourney to a Citty that in Strabos time was called Arsacia in Media the higher, now Cashin, once the royall seate of the Tartarian Princes, 4 daies iourny from the Caspian sea. From Casbin, I had 23 daies to Spahan in Parthia, the place of residence of the Persian K. But at my being there, he was in the Countrey of Gurgistan, ransacking the poor Christians ther with great hostility, with fire & sword. There I remained 2 months, & fo with a Carauantrauelled into the Easterne India, passing 4 months & odde daies, in my trauell betwixt that (through part of the true Persia, & a large tract of the noble & renownd India) and the goodly city of labore in India, one of the largest Cities of the whole vniuerse. For it containeth at the least vi. miles in compasse, & exceedeth Constanstantinople it selfe in greatnesse: but a dozen dayes before I came to Labore, I passed the famous River Indus, which is as broad againe as our Thames at London, and hath his originall out of the Mountaine Caucasus, so much ennobled by the ancient both Poets and Historiographers, Greeke & Latine; which Plato for curiofity sake, in his trauelles of these parts, went to see. It lyeth not farre from that yppon the Confines of Scythia, now called Tartaria: My felfe also conceiuing some hope of feeing it before my finall farewel of India. I had almost forgotten one memorable matter to impart vnto you: About the middle of the way, betwixt Spahan and Lahore, iust about the Frontiers of Persia & India, I met Sir Robert Sherley, and his Lady, trauailing from the court of the Mogul, (where they had beeneverie graciously received, and enriched with

presents of great value) to the King of Persia's Court; so gallantly furnished with all necessaries for their trauiles, that it was a great comfort vnto me to fee them in fuch a florishing estate. There did he shew mee to my fingular contentment, both my Bookes neatly kept; and hath promised me to shew them, efpecialy mine Itinerarie, to the Persian King; and to interpret vnto him fome of the principall Matters in the Turkish tongue, to the end, I may have the more gracious accesse vnto him after my returne thither. For through Persia I have determined (by Gods helpe) to returne to Aleppo. Besides, other rarities that they carried with them out of India; they had two Elephants, and eight Antlops, which were the first that euer I saw: but afterwards, when I came to the Moguls Court, I sawe great store of them. These they meant



meant to present to the Persian King. Both he and his Lady vsed me with fingular respect, especially his Lady, who bestowed forty shillings upon me in *Persian* mony; and they seemed to exult for ioy to see mee, having promised me to bring mee in good grace with the Persianking, and

and that they will induce him to bestow some Princely benefit vpon me: this I hope will be partly occasioned by my booke, for he is such a iocond Prince, that he will not be meanlie delighted with divers of my facetious hieroglyphicks, if they are trulie and genuinely expounded vnto him. From the famous Citie of Labore, I had twentie daies iourney to another goodly Citie called Agra, through fuch a delicate and eeuen tract of ground, as I neuer saw before; and doubt whether the like bee to be found within the whole circumference of the habitable world. Another thing also in this way, beeing no lesse memorable then the plainenesse of the ground; a row of Trees on each fide of this way where people doe trauell, extending itselfe from the townes end of Lahore, to the townes end of Agra; the most incomparable

ble shew of that kinde, that ever my eies survaied. Likewise wheras ther is a Mountaine some ten daies iourney betwixt Lahore and Agra, but verie neere ten miles out of the way on the left hand: the people that inhabite that Mountaine, obserue a custome very strange, that all the brothers of any familie, haue but one and the felfe same wife: fo that one woman fometimes doth ferue 6 or 7 men: the like whereof I remember I have read in Strabo, concerning the Arabians that inhabited Arabia felix. Agra is a verie great Citie, and the place where the Mogut did alwaies (fauing within these two yeares) keepe his Court; but in euerie respect much inferior to Lahore. From thence to the Moguls Court I had ten daies iourney, at a Towne called A smere, where I found a Cape Merchant of our English men, with nine more of my Countrimen, refident

dent there vpon termes of Negotiations, for the right worshipfull Company of Merchants in Londo that trade for East India. I spent in my iourney betwixt Ierusalem & this Moguls Court, 15 moneths and odde daies: all which way I trauersed afoot, but with divers paire of shooes, hauing beene such a Propateticke, (Iwill not cal myselfe a Peripatetick, because you know it fignifieth one that maketh a perambulation about a place, megimaleir, fignifying to walk about) that is, a walker forward on foote, as I doubt whether you euer heard of the like in your life: for the totall way betwixt Ierusalem and the Moguls court, containeth two thoufand and feauen hundred English miles. My whole perambulation of this Asia the greater, is like to bee a passage of almost fixe thousande miles, by that time that in my returne backe thorough Persia, after= D 2

afterward also by Babylon and Niniuie, I shall come to Cairo in Egypt, and from that downe the Nylus to Alexandria, there to be one daie (by Gods helpe) imbarqued for Christendome; a verie immense dimension

of ground.

Now I am at the Moguls Court, I think you would be glad to receive fome narration thereof from mee, though fuccinctly handled: for I meane to be very compendious, lest I shold otherwise preoccupate that pleasure which you may here after this reape by my personall relation thereof. This present Prince is a verie worthy person, by name Selim, of which name I neuer read or heard of any more then one Mahometan King, which was Sultan Selim of Constantinople, thatliued about 80. years fince; the same that conquered Ierusalem, Damascus, Aleppo, Cairo, &c: adding the same to the Turkish Empire.

pire. He is 53. yeares of age, his natiuitie daie hauing beene celebrated with wonderfull pompe fince my arriuall here: for that daie he weighed himselfe in a paire of golden Scales, which by great chance I faw the same day (a custome that he obserueth most inuiolablie euery year) laying so much golde in the other scale as couteruaileth the weight of his body, and the same he afterward distributed to the poore. Hee is of complexion neither white nor blacke, but of a middle betwixt thé: I know not how to expresse it with a more expressive & fignificant ephitheton then Olive: an Olive colour his face presenteth: hee is of a feemelie composition of bodie, of a stature little vnequall (as I guesse not without grounds of probabilitie) to mine, but much more corpulent then my selfe. The extent of his Dominion is verie spacious, beeing

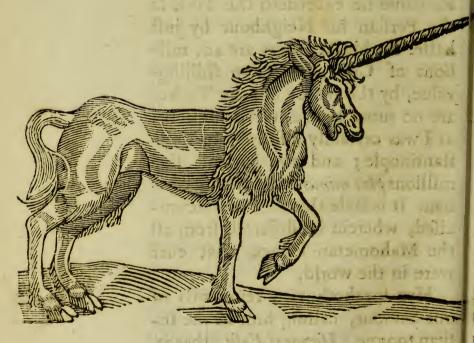
in circuite, little lesse then 4000. English miles, which verie neere answereth the compas of the Turks territories: or if any thing be wanting in geometricall dimension of ground, it is with a great pleonafme supplied by the fertility of his foyle: and in these two thinges hee exceedeth the Turks, in the fatnesse (as I have faid) of his Land, no part of the world yeelding a more fruitfull veine of ground, then all that which lieth in his Empire, fauing that part of Babylonia, where the terrestriall Paradise once stoode: whereas a great part of the Turkes Land is extreme barren and sterill, as I have observed in my peregrination thereof, especially in Syria, Mesopotamia and Armenia; many large portions thereof beeing fo wonderfull fruitelesse, that it beareth no good thing at all, or if any thing, there Infelix lolium et steriles dominantur auenæ. Second-

Secondly, in the coniunction and vnion of all his Territories, together in one & the same goodly continent of India, no Prince having a foote of land within him. But many parcels of the Turkes Countries are by a large distance of seas & otherwife divided afunder. Again, in his Reuenue he exceedeth the Turk & the Persian his Neighbour by just halfe: for his Reuenues are 40. millions of Crownes of fixe shillings value, by the yeare: but the Turkes are no more then fifteene millions, as I was certainly informed in Constantinople; and the Persians five millions plus minus, as I heard in Spahan. It is faide that he is vncircumcised, wherein he differeth from all the Mahometan Princes that euer were in the world.

Hee speaketh very reverently of our Sauiour, calling him in the Indian tongue, Ifazaret Eesa, that is,

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the great Prophet, Iesus: and all Christians, especiallie vs English, he vseth so beneuolently, as no Mahometan Prince the like. Hee keepeth abundance of wilde Beasts, & that of diuers forts, as Lyons, Elephants Leopards, Beares, Antlops, Vnicornes; whereof two I haue seene



at his Court, the strangest beasts of the world: they were brought hither out of the Countrie of Bengala, which is a kingdome of most singular fertilitie within the compasse of his Dominion, about foure moneths iourney from this, the midland parts thereof being watered by divers channels of the famous Ganges; which I have not as yet feene, but (God willing) I meane to visite it before my departure out of this Countrie, the necrest part of it beeing not aboue twelue daies iourny from this Court. The King presenteth himselfe thrice euery daie without faile to his Nobles, at the rifing of the Sunne, which he adoreth by the eleuation of his hands; at noone, and at fiue of the clocke in the euening: but he standeth in a roome aloft, alone by him selfe, and looketh vppon them from a window that hath an embroidered fumptuous couerture, supported with two filuer pillasters to yeeld shaddowe vnto him, Twice euery week, Elephants fight before him, the brauest spectacle in the worlde: many of them are thir-

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teene foot and a halfe high; and they feeme to iustle together like two little Mountaines, and were they not parted in the middest of their fighting by certaine fire-workes, they would exceedingly gore and cruentate one another by their murdering teeth. Of Elephants the King keepeth 30000. in his whole Kingdome at an vnmeasurable charge; in feeding of whom, and his Lyons, and other Beasts, he spendeth an incredible masse of money, at the least ten thoufand pounds sterling a day. I haue rid vpon an elephant fince I came to this Court, determining one day (by Gods leaue) to haue my picture expressed in my next Booke, fitting vpon an Elephant. The King keepeth a thousand women for his own body, whereof the chiefest (which is his Queene) is called Normal. I thinke I shall here after this fend another Letter vnto you, before my departure out of this Countrey, by a worthy man, which is the Minister & Preacher of our Nation in this place, one M. Peter Rogers, a man to whom I



am exceedingly obliged for his fingular offices of humanity exhibited vnto me. Pray vse him kindly for my sake; hee vnderstanding, that there is a certaine yong Gentleman, called Maister Charles Lancaster, that serveth the M.of the Rolles, intreated meto desire you to recommed him very kindly vnto him.

Our Cape-Merchants name is M. VV illiam Edwards, an honest gentleman, that vseth me with verie louing respect. Dear M. L.VV. conueigh these twoe letters that I have fent to you, to the parties to whom they are directed: my poore mother & mine vnckle VV illiams. You may do me a kinde office to desire him (with fuch convenient termes and patheticall perswasions as your discretion shall dictate and fuggest vnto you) to remember me as his poore industrious peregrinating kinseman, neerest vnto him in blood of all the people in the world; to remember me I say, with some competent gratutie, if God should call him out of the world before my returne into my natiue Countrie. I praie you if hee be liuing, and doth vse to come to London as he was wont to doo, that you would deliuer my Letter to him with your owne hands, and not fend it vnto him. You may remember to relate this vnto your friends, that I will now mention as a matter verie memorable; I fpent in my ten moneths trauels betwixt

twixt Aleppo and the Moguls Court, but three pounds sterling, yet fared reasonable well euerie daie; victuals beeing fo cheape in some Countries where I trauelled, that I oftentimes lived competentlie for a pennie sterling a day: yet of that three pound I was cousened of no lesse than ten shillings sterling, by certaine lewde Christians of the Armenian Nation: fo that indeed I spent but fiftie shillings in my ten moneths trauailes. I have beene in a Citie in this Countrie, called Detee, where Alexander the Greatioyned battell with Porus, K. of India, and conquered him; and in token of his victorie, erected a braffe pillar, which remaineth there to this day. Pray remember my humblest service to the right Honourable, your Maister of the Rolles. Si superat q; et vescitur aura ætherea,nec adhuc crudelibus occubat vmbris. And to Sir Robert Phillips, once my Mecanas, but how affected to meat this time I know not: pray tell them that I meane to write to each of them before my departure out of India: remember

my duty also to their right vertuous Ladies. About foure yeares hence looke forme, but not before. For if God grant me life and health, I meane to make it a voyage of full feauen yeares before I come home, whereof three are already fpent. Commend me also I pray you to M. Martin, though at a mans house in woodstreet, he vsed mee one night verie peruerfly before I came away: but you fee that my being at Ierusalem dooth make me forget many iniuries. Commend mee likewise to Maister H. Holland, and Inigo Iones: at this time I haue many Irons in the fire; for I learne the Persian, Turkish, & Arabian tongues, hauing already gotten the Italian (I thank God) I have bene at the Moguls Court three moneths already, and am to tarry heere (by Gods holy permission) fine moneths longer, till I have gotten the foresaide three tongues, and then depart herehence to the Ganges, and after that, directly to the Persian Court.

Your assured louing Friend till death,

Tho: Coryate.

From the Court of the Great Mogul, resident at the Towne of Asmere in the Eastern India, on Michaelmas day.

Anno 1615.

I Do enioy at this time as pancraticall and athleticall a health as euer I did in my life: & so have done euer fince I came out of England, fauing for three dayes in Constantinople, where I had an Ague, which with a little letting blood was clean banished, the Lord be humbly thanked for his gracious blessing of health that hee hath given vnto mee. I was robbed of my money both golde and filuer (but not all, by reason of certaine clandestine corners where it was placed) in a Cittie called Diarbeck in Mesopotamia, the Turks countrey, by a Spahee as they call him, that is, one of the horsemen of the great Turke; but the occasion and circumstance of that misfortune, would be too tedious to relate. Notwithstanding that losse, I am not destitute of money I thanke God. Since my arrivall heere, there was fent vnto this King one of the richest presents that I have heard to be fent to any Prince in al my life time: it confisted of divers parcels; one beeing Elephants, whereof there were 31. and of those, two so gloriously adorned, as I neuer sawe the like, nor shal see the like again while I liue. For they wore foure chaines about their bodies all of beaten gold: two chains about their legges of the same; Furni-

furniture for their buttocks of pure gold: two Lyons vpon their heads of the like gold: the ornaments of each, amounting to the value of almost eight thousand pound sterling: and the whole Present was worth ten of their Leakes, as they call them; a Leak being ten thousand pound sterling: the whole, a hundred thousand pounds sterling. Pray commend me to M. Protoplast, and all the Sireniacall gentlemen, to whom I wrote one Letter from Alepto, after my being at Ierusalem; and another I intend to write before my goingout of Afia. Their most elegant and in comparable safe-conduct that they have graciously bestowed vpon me, I have left at Aleppo, not having made any vse of it as yet, neither shall I in all my peregrination of Asia: but when I shall one day arriue in Christendome, it will be very auailable to me. I have heere fent unto you the coppy of certaine facetious verses, that were lately sent to me to this Court, from one of my Countrimen, one M. Iohn Browne, a Londoner borne, now refident with divers other English Merchants, at a Citie in India, five hundred miles from the place where I abide, called Amadauers, about fixe dayes iourney from the Sea: who understanding of my arrivall at this Court, and of my tedious pedestriall peregrination all the way from Ierusalem hither; vnderstanding it I say, by Latine and Italian Epistles, that upon a certaine occasion I wrote to some of that company, made these pretty verses, and fent them me. You may reade them to your friends if you thinke fit, and especially to the Sireniacall gentlemen; for they are elegant and delectable.

lectable. The superscription of his Letter was this: To the painefull gentleman, M. Thomas Coryate: The title within prefixed before the verses this;

To the Odcombian wonder, our laborious Coun-

triman, the generous Coryate.

The Verfes,

What though thy *Gruder* trauels were attended With bastinadoes, lice, and vile disgraces? Haue not thy glorious acts thereby ascended Great Brittaines stage, euen to Princes places, Led on in triumph by the noblest spirits

Led on in triumph by the noblest spirits

That euer deignd to write of anies merits?

If then for that they did advance thy fame, How will they strive to adde vnto thy glory, When thou to them so wondrously shalt name Thy weary foot-steps and thy Asian story?

No doubt more ripe (as neerer to the Sunne) Then was that first that in the cold begun.

Then rest a while, and to thy taske againe,
Till thou has throughly trod this Asian round,
Which yet so many Kingdomes doth containe
As Dackon, where the Diamond is found;
And Bisnagar Narsinga: and if you be
Not weary yet, in Zeilan seeke the Rubie

Then could I wish you saw the China Nation, Whose policie and art doth sarre exceed Our Northern climes: and here your observation V Vould Nouelists and curious Artists seede

With

With admiration. Oh, had I now my wishes. Sure you shold learn to make their China dishes

" A goodly Province in India, three hundred miles from hence. \* A kinde of wine vsed in that part of India.

Arabiafælix.

But by the way forget not \* Gugurat, The Lady of this mighty Kings Dominion: Visite Baroch, Cambaia, and Surat. And Amdauar; all which in my opinion Yeeld much content: & then more to glad yee, Weele haue a health to al our friends in \* Tadee

Then crosse to Arab, \*happiest in division; \* He meaneth But have a care (at Mecca is some danger) Leste you incurre the pain of circumcision, Or Peter-like, to Christ do seeme a stranger. From thence to Egypt, where the famous Nile And Memphis will detaine your eyes a while.

> This done, at Alexandria feeke your passinge For Englands happy shores, wher How & Mundy Will strive to make your travels our-last age, So long as stand their Annals of our Country. For Mandeuill wil come of thee farre short. Either of trauell, or a large report.

> YEt one Post-script more by way of a Corollary, and so with the same, beeing the fourth and the last, I will adde the final vmbilicke to this tedious English-Indian Epistle. I haue written out two leuerall coppies of these verses, and included them within the Letters, which I have intreated you to distribute for me, but so that the Letters are not fealed upon them; onely they lie loose within the Letters, therefore they are subiect

them. Wherefore I intreate you to deliver that to mine Vnkle with your owne hands, it he be in London, or to conveigh it to him by such a one as will not lose that loose paper of verses. The like care I desire you to have of thatto my mother, and to send it vnto her by some other man then a Carrier, if you can let with such an opportunity: for intruth I am a raide the carrier will lose the inclosed paper. Pray take advice of some of the M. of the Rolles his people that are to ride to Euil. Pray remember my commendations with all respect to M. Williams the goldsmith and his wise; and to Beniamin Iohnson, and to reade this letter to them both: likewite to mistris Elizabeth Balch, if shee continueth with your Lady.

2 abeth Balch, if thee continueth with your Lady.

One appendix more and fo an end. There happened betwixt the day of the writing of this Letter, and the day of the sealing of it vp, a memorable occurrent not to bee omitted. VVee received newes at this Court the ninth day after the writing of this Letter (for nine daies it was vnsealed) being the eight of October, of the arrivall of foure goodly English ships, at the hauen of Surat in India, and in the same, of a very generous and we rehy English Knight, a deare friend of mine, Sir Thomas Rowe, to come to the Court with some mature expedition, as an Ambassadour from the right worshipfull company of London Merchants that trade for India: he cometh with Letters from our King, and certaine selected presents of good worth from the company, amongst the rest, a gallantCaroch, of 150. pounds price. Also there came with him 15. seruants, al Englishmen · Forty daies hence at the farthest we expect (800 Sissolos) his arrivall at this Court. This news doth refocillate ( I will vse my olde phrase fo well knowne to you) my spirits: for I hope he will vse me graciously, for old acquaintance fake.

not be a second or the second



# TO THE HIGH

Seneschall of the right

Worshipfull Fraternitie of Sirenia acal Gentlemen, that meet the first Fridaie of euery Moneth, at the signe of the Mere-Maide in Bread-streete in London, give these:

From the Court of the great Mogul, resident at the Towne of Almere, in the East-



Ight Generous, Iouiall, and Mercuriall Sirenaicks; I have often read this greeke Prouerb, xelp xeliparenles, that is, one hand washeth another, &

in Latine, Mulus mulum scabit, one Mule scratcheth another; by which the Ancients signified, that courtesies done vnto friends, ought to bee requited with reciprocall offices of friendship. The serious consideration heereof, dooth

make me to call to mind that incomparable elegant fafe-conduct, which a little before my departure from England, your Fraternity with a general suffrage gaue me for the security of my suture peregrination, concinnated by the pleasant wit of that inimitable artizan of sweet elegancy, the moytie of my heart, and the quondam Seneschall of

the noblest society, M.L.VV.

Therefore fince it is requssite that I should repay some-what for the same, according to the lawes of humanity: Such a poore retribution as I sent vnto you from Aleppo, the Metropolitan City of Syria, by one M. Henry Allare of Kent, my sellowe-pilgrime therehence to Ierusalem; I meane a plaine Epistle, which I hope, long since came vnto your hands. I have sent vnto you by a man no lesse deare vnto mee then the former, one M. Peter Rogers, a Kentish man also, from the most famigerated Region of all the East, the ample and large India:

India: affuring my selfe, that because I am not able to requite your love with any essentiall gratulations, other then verball and scriptall, you wil as louing, ly entertaine my poore Letters, beeing the certaine manifestation of an ingenious minde, as if I should send vnto you the minerall riches or drugges of

the noble Country.

Thinke it no wonder I pray you, that I have made no vse in all this space since I left my native Coutry, of the super excellent Commeate; for I have spent all my time hitherto in the Mahometan Countries, and am like to spend three yeares more in these Musselman (as they call them) Regions of Asia, after of Europe, before J shalarive in Christendome. For this cause I left it in Aleppo, with my Countrimen, there to receive it from them againe, after that I shall have ended my Indian and Persian perambulation: and therehence to carrie it once more

F 4

to Constantinople, and that by the way at Iconium Nicæa, Nicomedia, &inthe countrie of Natolia, a journie of forty daies. From that finally through the heart of Greece by the Cities of Athens, Thebes, Corinth, Lacedæmon, Thessalonica, and to the Citie of Ragouze, hertofore Epidaurus, so sacred for the image of Ae/culapius in the countrie of Sclauonia, once called Illyricum; from thence I have three daies iourney to the inestimable Diamond fet in the Ring of the Adriatique gulfe, (as once I said in the first harrangue that euer I made to Prince Henry of bleffed memory, translated fince my departure from London, from the terrestriall Tabernacles, to the coelestial habitations) venereous Venice, the soueraign Queen of the Mare superumif the great Iehouah shall be so propitious vnto mee, as to grant mee a prosperous arrivall in that noble Cittie, I will there beginne to shew your safe conduct, and to decantate, yea and blazon your praises for the same: and after in every other place of note, vntill I shall arrive in glorious Lon-

London, communicate it to the most polite, with that the Cities will yeeld, thorough which my laborious feete shall carry mee, it would be supervacaneous to commemorate vnto you the almost incredible extent of Land I traversed from Ierusalem to the Court of the great Mogulin India, where I now reside; with the variable Regions and Provinces interiacent betwixt them, and the manifold occurrences and observations of speciall worke in this vaste tract: for it wold be fuch a fastidious discourse, that it could not be wel comprehended in a large sheete of paper: but M.VV. I hope will not faile to import vnto you in a few compendious Relations, which I haue acquainted him with, in a particular Letter to himselfe: of which, if I should have written againe to you, it would have proved Crambe bis CoEta. The Gentleman that bringeth this Letter vnto you, was preacher to the English Merchants conversant at the Court of the aforesaid mighty Monarch in the Towne of Asmere in this Easterne India:

and in divers louing offices hath bene fo kind vnto me, that I intreat your generofities to entertaine him friendly for my fake, to exhilarate him with the purest quintessence of the Spanish, French and Rhenish Grape, which the Mermaid yeeldeth; & either one in the name of you all, or else the totall vniversalitie of the one after another, to thanke him heartily, according to the quality of his merits. Farewell noble Sirenaicks.

Your generosities most obliged Countreyman,

euer to be commanded by you, the Hierosolymi
tan Syrian--Mesopotamian--Armenian--Me
dian--Parthian--Persian--India--Legge
Strecher of Odcomb in Somerset.

THOMAS CORVATE.





Ray remember the recommendations of my dutifull respect to althose whose names I have here expressed, being the lo-

uers of vertue, and literature; and so consequently the well-willers (I hope) of a prosperons issue of my designements, in my laborious pedestriall perambulations of Asia, Affrica, and Europe.

VVritten with mine owne hand, at the Court of the Great Mogul Shaugh Selim, resident in the towne of Asmere, in the vmbilicke of the orientall India, the eight day of Nouember, being wedness.

daie. Anno Dom. 1615.

G 2

Imprimis

Mprimis, to the two Ladeis Varney the Mother & the Daughter, at Boswell house without Temple Barre.

2. Item, to that famous Antiquarie, Sir Robert Cotten, at his house in the BlackeFriers. Pray tell him that I have a very curious white marble head of an ancient Heros or Gyant-like Champion, found out very casually by my diligent peruestigation amongst the ruines of the once renowned City of Cyzicum, mentioned by Cicero in his second Oration (if my memory doth not fail me) against Verres, situate in a peninsula of Bythinia, in the goodly country of Natolia, neere the Sea Propontis: to this head will his best antiquities what soeuer veyle bonnet.

3. Item, to that courteous, sweet, and elegantnatured and nurtured gentleman, M. William
Forde, Preacher to our Nation at Constantinople,
if you happen to meete him in any part of England; one that deserveth better of methan any
man in all this Catalogue: for of him I have
learned what soever superficial skill I have gotten in the Italian tongue; pray reduplicate my

commendations vnto him.

4. Item to M. George Speake my generous & ingenious countriman, the Sonne and heyre apparant of Sir George Speake in Sommerset-shire: him you are like to finde in any Terme, eyther at the middle Temple, crin some Barbers house

house neere to the Temple.

5. Item, to M. IohnDonne, the author of two most elegant Latine Bookes, Pseudo-martyr, and Ignaty Conclave: of his abode either in the Strad, or elsewhere in London; I thinke you shall bee casily informed by the meanes of my friend, M. L. W.

6. Item, to M. Richard Martin, Counsellor, at his chamber in the middle Temple, but in the

Terme time, scarce else.

7. Item, to M. Christopher Brooke of the city of Yorke, Councellor, at his chamber in Lincolnes Inne, or neere it.

8. Item, to M. Iohn Hoskins, alias Aequinoctial Pasticrust, of the citic of Hereford, Counsellor,

at his chamber in the middle Temple.

9 Item, to M.George Garrat; of whose beeing you shal vnderstand by Master Donne aforesaide.

10 Item, to M. VVilliam Hackwell, at his

chamber in Lincolnes Inne.

11 Item, to Maister Beniamin Iohnson the Poet at his chamber at the Blacke Friars.

man, chiefe Secretarie vnto my Lorde Chancellour.

perhappes in my Lord of Canterburies house at Lambeth, where I lest him.

14 Item, to M. Samuel Purkas, the great col-

lector of the Lucubrations of fundry classical authors, for the description of Asia, Africa, and America. Pray commend me vnto him and his mapasalus Maister Cooke, by the same token, that he gaue me a description of Constantinople, and the Thracius Bosphorus, written in Latine by a Frenchman called Petrus Gillius: which Booke, when I carried once in an affertoone vnder mine arme, in walking betwixt our English Ambassadors house in Pera, on the opposite side to Constantinople, and the Flemish Ambassadors house, I lost it very vnfortunately to my great griefe, & neuer sound it againe.

16 Item, to M. Inigo Iones, there where Mai-

ster Martin shall direct you.

16 Item, to M. Iohn Williams the Kings Gold-

at his house in Cheapside.

17 Item to M. Hugh Holland at his lodging, where M. Martin shall direct you.

i 8 Item to M. Robert Bing at Yongs ordinarie,

neere the Exchange.

19 Item, to M. William Stansby, the Printer of my Crudities and Crambe, at his house in Thames street: also to his childlesse wife.

23 Item, to all the Stationers in Paules Churchyard; but especially those by name, Mast. Norton, Mast. Water son, M. Mathew Lownes, M. Edward Blount, and M. Barrat, &c.

God blesse them all, & me too, that I may one day after the final consummation of my fastidious peregrina-

tions

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tions in the world, see and salute them all in health and welfare.

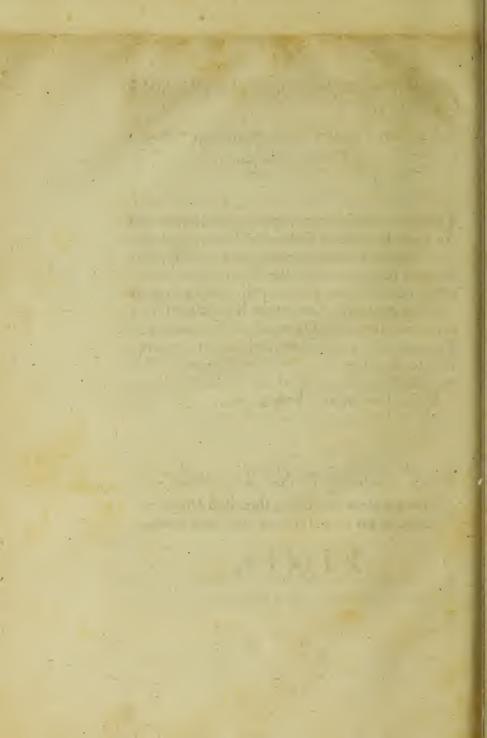
Per me Thomam Coryatum Odcombiensem.

P Ray remember my very humble dutie to my Lord Byshop of Bathe and Welles, generous M. Doctor Montacute; and tell his Lordship, that before I returne towards the Persian court out of this Orientall India, I resolue (by Gods permission) to write such a Letter vnto him (after I have throughly surueighed so much of this country as I meane to do) as shall not bee unworthy to bee read to the Kings most excellent Majesty. You are like to heare newes of his Lordships abode in Kings street, neere VVestminster.

## A Distich to the Traueller.

All our choise wits, all, see, thou hast engrost? The doubt yet rests, if they or thou have most.

FINIS.





#### To his Louing Mother.

Y this present Letter, I am like to minister vnto Byou the occasion of two contrary matters; the one of comfort, the other of discomfort: of comfort, because I have by the propitious affistance of the omnipotent Iehouah, performed such a notable voyage of Afia the greater, with purchase of great riches of experience, as I doubt whether any English man this hundred yeares have done the like; having feene and very particularly observed all the cheefest things in the Holy-land, called in times past Palæstina; as Ierusalem, Samaria, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Iericho, Emaus, Bethania, the Dead sea, called by the Ancients Lacus Asphaltites, where Sodome and Gomorrha once stood; fince that, many famous and renowned Cities and countries; Mesopotamia, in the which I entred by the passage of the river Euphrates, that watered Paradife; in which the Citty of Vr where Abraham was borne; both the Mediaes, the higher and the lower. Parthia, Armenia, Perfia, through al which I have travailed into the Eastern India, being now at the Court of the great Mogull, at a Towne called Asmere, the which from Ierusalem is the distance of two thousand and feauen hundred miles; and have traced all this tedious way afoote, with no small toile of bodye and discomfort, because that beeing so exceeding H farre

farre from my sweet and most delicious Native soyle of England, you will doubt perhaps, how it is possible for me to returne home againe: but I hope I shall quickly remoue from you that opinion of discomfort, (if at the least you shall conceive any such) because I would have you know, that I alwayes go fafely in the company of Carauans from place to place. A Carauan is a word much vsed in all Afia: by which is vnderstood a great multitude of people trauelling together vpon the way with Camels, Horses, Mules, Asses, &c. on which they carry Merchandizes from one country to another, and Tents and Pauillions; vnder which instead of houses they shelter themselves in open fields, being furnished also with all necessary provision, and convenient implements to dresse the same: in which Carauans I have ever most securely passed betwixt lerusalem and this Towne, a journey of fifteene months and odde dayes: whereof foure wanting a VVeeke, spent in Aleppo, and two and five & od dayes spent in Spahan the Metropolitan Citty of Perfia, where the Persian King most commonly keeperh his Court: & the occasion of my spending of fixe moneths of the aforesaide fifteene, in those two Citties, was to waite for an opportunity of Carauans to Trauaile withall; which a traueller is not fure to finde presently, when he is ready to take his journey, but must with patience expect a convenient time; and the Caravan in which I trauelled betwixt Spahan and India, contained 2000. Camels, 1500. horses, 1000. and odde Mules, 800. Asses, and fixe thousand people. Let this therefore (deer Mother) minister vnto you a strong hope of my happy returne into England.

Notwithstand all these lines for prouision for your

Fune-

Funerall, I hope for to see you aliue and sound in body & minde, about scure yeares hence; & to kneele before you with effusion of teares, for ioy. Sweet mother, pray let not this wound your heart, that I say four yeares hence, & not before; I humbly befeech you euen vpon the knees of my heart, with all submissive, supplications to pardon me for my long absence; for verily, I have resolved by the favour of the supernall powers, to spend 4. entire yeares more before my returne, and so to make it a Pilgrimage of 7. yeares, to the end I may very effectually and profitably contemplace a great part of this worldly fabricke, determining by Gods special help, to go from India into the countrey of Scythia, now called Tartaria, to the Cittie Samarcanda, to see the Sepulcher of the greatest Conqueror that euer was in the worlde, Tamberlaine the Great: thither it is a journey of two months from the place I now remaine: from that I meane to return into Persia; and therehence by the way of Babylon & Niniuy, and the Mountaine Ararat, where Noahs Arke rested, to Aleppo, to my Countrymen. From that, by the way of Damascus, and once againe to Gaza in the Land of the Philistems vnto Cairo in Egypt: From that downe the Nilus to Alexandria: and therehence finally, I hope to be imbarked for some part of Christendome, as either Venice, or &c. After mine arrivall in Christendome, I shall desire to travell two yeares in Italy, and both high & low Germany, and then with all expedition into England, and to see you (I hope) with as great ioy as euer did any Trauailer his Father or Mother, going in that manner as I do like a poore Pilgrim. I am like to paffe with vndoubted fecuritie, and

H 2

twixt Aleppo and this Moguls Court, I spent but three pounds sterling, and yet had sustenance enough to maintaine nature, living reasonably well, oftentimes a whole day, for so much of their money, as doeth countervaile two pence sterling. But least I be over tedious vnto you, I will heere make an end.&c.

I will now commend you to the most blessed protection of our Sauiour Iesus Christ; before whose holy Sepulcher at Ierusalem, I have poured foorth mine ardent Orisons for you, to the most facrofanct Trinity, beseeching it with all humilitie of heart, to blesse and preserve you in a solid health, &c4

> Your louing Sonne, Tho: Coryate.

### To his louing Friend, Tho-

mas Coryate.

Tom Coryates Shooes hang by the Bels
At Odcomb, where that Bel-Dam dwels who first produc't that monster: Monster of men I may him call, In that he is admir'd of all, else mought he me misconster.

His head doth run the wilde-goofe chace, Swifter then horse of hunting race, or Hare that Hound runs after: He pickes up wit, as Pigeons peafe, And utters it when God doth please: O who can hold from Laughter?

To see him in a Morning Sunne, In his rough Lambeskin and bare gowne the Scuttle hole ascending: Would make a horse his halter breake, To heare him vomit forth his Greeke, with all the Ship contending.

On Christmas day he drunke in iest, Coniur'd a storme out of the East, in clambring vp the cradle: Before, the winde was wondrous faire, Now forc't to ride in Gebraltar, withouten horse or saddle.

But Asses there a hideous band,
Thom-as discouered from the Land,
His Booke is not without them:
At Toms returns there will be sport,
In Countrey, City, Towns, and Court,
Those Asses round about them.

Who lives his Leaves for to vnfold,
At his returne, I dare be bold,
will wonders finde farre stranger,
Then was his conslict with the Iewes,
Or entertainment at the Stewes;
or lying in the Manger

Amongst the horse at Bergamo,
Or begging of the poore, I tro;
these were but toyes and bables:
Of Drums, Guns, Trumpets, he will tell,
Of haling Ships, of Pyrats fell;
of Tacklings, Masts, and Cables.

VVith Starboord, Larboorde, Helme, Alee, Full, Come no neere: 'tis done quoth he, who at the Helme doth stand.

War-no-more, cries an angry Mate;
Oh Odcombe, these be termes of state,
Not vsuall on the Land.

Oh learne this Tongue I thee beseech,
For it is not beyond the reach
of \* Leaden pated sooles:

Because my Brother Coriate called the Sailers Lea-

A

den-pated Fellowes. I say, it is not beyond their reach to learne this Language: not that I call him Leaden pated, for the world knowes he is capeable of farre worther Languages: beeing now adding Italian, to his excellent G reek eand Latine.

A Marine Language made, I say, Among our selues, which till this day was neuer taught in schooles.

Confront your Academies all,
Of Brazen-nose and Penbrooke Hall,
of learned not the least:
Challenge the chiefe in our behoofe,
And make the proudest spring his loofe,
or send him South South-east.

There let vs leave them for a time:
Now to the subject of my rime,

Tom Tel troth umply witty:
Neither Tom Dingell, nor Tom Drum,
Tom Foole, Tom Piper, nor Tom Thum,
the scorne of Towne and Citie.

But Tom of Toms, admired most;
More then a Goblin, or a Ghost,
A Phairy, or an Else;
VVbilst he amongst his Friends abides,
Your Gizards as your Whitsontides,
no merrier then himselse.

ry Mummer.

Gizard is in Scotch a mer.

Fryer Tucke, Maide Marian, and the rest, You Bag-pipes loud that loodle best, making the valleyes ring: You and all countrey clownes give place, To Odcomb of esteemed grace, euen vice-toy to a King.

Who for his mirth and merry glee, Is raif'd to higher dignity, then ere was English wight; So honor'd fince his comming out, He must no more be tearm'd a Lout, but styl'd a Troian Knight,

Termed a Lout, having a reference ynto the Princes verses, who held all men guls & Louts, that were not Trauellers.

Where he hath writ of Toombs, of Stones, Of Marble Pillars, dead mens bones, with Pallaces of pleasure; Of Gates, of Turrets, Churches, Towres, Of Princes, Peasants, Knaues, and V Vhores; alas for time and leasure.

For to repeate what he hath writ,
VVhilst I am in this riming fit,
plaine, simple, vnrefinde!
Of this no longer must I stay,
Be merry Mates, and lets away,
whilst weather serues, and winde,

FINIS.

R.R.

